

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend page 28, lines 5-18, of the Specification, as follows:

The vehicle occupant safety system 10 also includes a force detection device 176 for detecting a force applied to the seat belt webbing 20. Preferably, the force detection device 176 is a micro-electro mechanical (MEMs) strain sensitive transducer. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the force detection device 176 is located on the seat belt webbing 20 adjacent the anchor point 23. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the force detection device 176 may be located in other areas of the vehicle occupant safety system 10. The force detection device 176 detects the force applied to the seat belt webbing 20 and generates a signal indicative of the detected force.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 15, and 16, as follows:

1. (Amended) A vehicle occupant safety system for helping to protect an occupant of a vehicle seat during a crash condition, the system comprising:

at least one sensor for sensing a vehicle crash condition and generating a signal indicative of the crash condition;

seat belt webbing for extending around the vehicle occupant; and

a pretensioner responsive to the signal generated by the sensor for acting on the seat belt webbing to pull an